

REMARKS

The Examiner's indication of allowability of claims 3, 6-7, 10, 13 and 15, if rewritten in independent form, is acknowledged and appreciated.

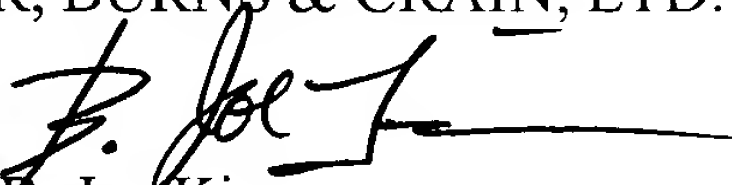
Claims 1-2, 8-9 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), as being anticipated by, or under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being obvious over, Matsuda et al. Claims 1 and 6 have been canceled, and the subject matter described in those claims has been incorporated in claims 1, 8 and 16. Accordingly, claims 1, 8 and 16, and their respective dependent claims 2 and 9 are now believed to be allowable. Claims 3, 7, 10 and 15 have been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, these claims are also believed to be allowable.

In view of the above-described amendments to the claims, the application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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July 29, 2005

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